



UNIVERSITÉ
SAVOIE
MONT BLANC



Commoning in Crisis: Collective Voice and the Reimagining of Rural Resilience Workshop 3-5 September 2026

Room 911, campus Jacob, [Campus de Jacob-Bellecombette : accès et mobilité - Université Savoie Mont Blanc - Formation - Recherche](#)

ZOOM: <https://zoom.us/jc/92860899615>

Thursday 3rd September

10.00-10.30	<i>Welcome coffee</i>
10.30-11.00	Introduction: Emma Bell & Marc-Philippe Brunet
11.00-12.30	Spain Amparo Viñuales Galé, Junta General del Valle de Roncal, President DISCUSSANTS: José-Miguel Lana Berasain & Alaitz Gutiérrez-Jauregi, Public University of Navarre
12:30-13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30-15:00	Romania Ana-Maria Atomoaei, Asociația Noi Re-Creăm, President DISCUSSANTS: Vlad Botgros and Bianca Lucaci, West University Timisoara
15:15-17:45	Ireland Seán Carolan, Mulranny Community Futures CLG, Coordinator Community Action for a Regenerative Environment Elisabeth Salter (Prof), CALL Climate Action Louisburgh Locality, One Westport for All, Clew Bay Alliance for Climate Action [ClewBACA], consultant for building capacity by bringing in funding Brian Smyth, Save Leitrim DISCUSSANTS: Oscar Mooney (Trinity College Dublin), Marc-Philippe Brunet & Síofra Nic Risteáird (USMB), Emma Bell (Sorbonne University)
20:00	<i>Dinner, Restaurant Le Savoyard</i>

Friday 4th September

10:00-12.30	Portugal Tiago Fabião, <i>Associação de Agrupamentos de Baldios – Estrela Sul</i> Ana Filipa Costa, <i>PRIP (Prout Research Institute Portugal); Initiative-Cova da Beira Converge Movement</i> , President of the Board of PRIP and General Coordinator of Cova da Beira Converge Movement Manuela Pires da Fonseca, <i>Baldios da Aldeia do Carvalho</i> , President DISCUSSANTS: Alcides Almeida Monteiro & Anabela do Rosário Leitão Dinis, University of Beira Interior
12:30-13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30-14:30	Italy Filippo Barbera and Isabel Oberlin, University of Turin: Civil society and local development of marginal areas in Piedmont
14:30-15:00	Break
15.00-18.00	Discussion: key lessons + next steps
20:00	Dinner, Restaurant <i>Les Plaisirs Gourmands</i>

Saturday 5th September

France

9am departure from Chambéry : Visit to 'la Section de commune du Couchant', Faverges-Seythenex, Bauges (74).

Presentation of civil society organisations/expectations

SPAIN

Junta General del Valle de Roncal

The General Board of the Valley of Roncal is a historical organisation that owns and manages more than 20 thousand hectares of common lands. The Board has been ruling and monitoring the uses of pastures, forests and natural resources from the Middle Ages to nowadays. It is composed of 21 persons, representing the seven towns of the valley. Recently, they renewed their bylaws that were published on May 2025. The last ones were approved in 1890. Therefore, there has been a participatory process of discussion among different players to adapt old rules to the new circumstances. During the process there was an opportunity to contrast and reconcile different points of view. All participants agree on the importance of the traditional organisation and the need to sustain a sense of community.

ROMANIA

Asociația Noi Re-Creăm

Asociația Noi Re-Creăm is a non-governmental organisation based in Timișoara, Romania, active in the fields of cultural development, community engagement, non-formal education and youth participation. Over the past years, the organisation has implemented cultural projects, international youth exchanges, educational programmes and community-based initiatives that bring together artists, young people, educators, local stakeholders and citizens. The organisation has developed projects focused on creativity, active citizenship, social inclusion, cultural participation and community resilience, while also supporting local networks of artisans, designers and creative practitioners.

For this workshop, we would like to discuss how cultural and educational initiatives can contribute to strengthening local communities and fostering collective forms of action in times of environmental, social and democratic challenges. We are particularly interested in exploring the role of participation, community-led initiatives, civic engagement and informal learning in building resilient communities.

IRELAND

Mulranny Community Futures CLG

Mulranny Community Futures was formed in 2009 in the remote rural village of Mulranny Co Mayo in response to a chronic lack of pedestrian infrastructure and untapped tourism potential. We adopted the Scottish Community Futures model, a participatory research method to engage the entire community to design to potential. Mulranny went on to win the European Destination for Sustainable Tourism for Heritage Regeneration in 2011. The [village public realm](#) was transformed, and the Old Irish Goat emerged from obscurity as a central character to Mulranny's regenerative tourism brand. It received a European Entente Florale Best Practice award in 2019. Mulranny's Stone Wall festival was confirmed by researchers as a regenerative tourism experience. In 2021, Mulranny was

selected as the county decarbonizing zone, based on its track record and [inclusive vision](#) and [plan](#).

Mulranny succeeded in mobilising community and State actors to deliver on potential. However, challenges remain to break through [the glass ceiling of legitimacy](#). Conservation of the Old Irish Goat remains greatly inhibited by the limited national approach in Ireland to conservation of genetic resources, influenced by the global approach of so-called “sustainable utility”. These successes and challenges resonate with Theodore Roosevelt’s speech delivered in Paris in 1910; [Citizenship in a Republic](#). In 2025, we initiated the CARE [Community Action for a Regenerative Environment](#) to expand on the participatory democracy success. This initiative builds on experience and good practice from the United States, via [Regenerative Development and Design](#). Our community essentially seeks to remind ourselves and our society that republics rely on engaged, informed, organized and active citizens. Our role is to build that through CARE.

Save Leitrim

Save Leitrim is an environmental CLG set up to safeguard Leitrim’s land, communities, and habitats against extractive commercial timber and logging practices. The group’s activities will be presented by Neil Foulkes, one of the founding members of the group, and Oscar Mooney, a final-year PhD researcher at Trinity College Dublin, who is closely involved with the group as part of his research focused on the impacts of forestry in Ireland’s Northwestern region, particularly in Ireland’s most forested county, Co. Leitrim. His research has used participatory, semi-ethnographic methods to understand and gain critical insights into the organisation Save Leitrim, and rural life in the forementioned county and region. The groups would like to discuss the following topics: land ownership, rural development, rural-urban politics, forestry management, self-determination.

CALL Climate Action Louisburgh Locality, One Westport for All, Clew Bay Alliance for Climate Action [ClewBACA]

The presentation is about working with community groups with a focus on climate actions and environmental awareness. Elisabeth Salter’s role with these groups is to help them build capacity by bringing in funding to work on a range of projects - including the funding for other people to carry out projects and research / survey/feasibility study works, and management of projects across the range.

The projects range from direct environmental action (Bog Restoration, River and catchment focused restoration of habitat and mitigation against climate change impacts such as flooding and impacts on waste and drinking water), circular economy projects (repair and recycle initiatives), creatively focused community development and awareness raising (Crow Collective, art and personal development workshops for differently abled people) and cultural historical projects (The Village Shops An Siopa Áitúil: community resilience and food security- learning from the past for the present and the future).

Challenges include:

- Broad sector engagement with direct action projects (community members, landholders, sub/urban residents etc.)
- Gaining sufficient funding for proper scaffolding of these initiatives
- Corraling the many possibilities for action into meaningful projects

- Ensuring projects remain meaningful at the local level, even where high level surveying / feasibility study work is needed in the first instance before direct action can be impactfully taken.

PORTUGAL

Associação de Agrupamentos de Baldios – Estrela Sul, Portugal

The Associação de Agrupamentos de Baldios – Estrela Sul represents several community-managed common lands in the Serra da Estrela mountain region of Portugal. The association promotes the sustainable management of forests and other common resources, and supports local communities in protecting biodiversity and landscapes.

At the workshop, we would like to share our experience of managing common lands as a living example of commoning, discuss the challenges faced by mountain communities in the context of climate change, biodiversity loss, and rural depopulation, and reflect on the relationship between local community initiatives and public policies. We are also interested in learning from other experiences across Europe and strengthening networks for future collaboration.

PRIP (Prout Research Institute Portugal); Initiative- Cova da Beira Converge Movement

Prout Research Institute Portugal (PRIP) is an association of activists and citizens dedicated to building a more just, sustainable, regenerative, prosperous, and vibrant society. Our focus is on fostering cooperation and promoting the holistic well-being of all beings. We advocate and spread the principles of the Prout (Progressive Utilisation Theory) socio-economic model, which emphasizes economic democracy, social justice, active citizen participation, and the self-sufficiency and resilience of bioregions.

In our workshop, we will share insights from the Cova da Beira Converge (CBC) movement, initiated in 2022 after a participatory diagnostic process in the Cova da Beira region of inland Portugal. CBC is a collaborative movement of citizens and organisations united to take actionable steps that strengthen local self-sufficiency and resilience, encourage citizen engagement, stimulate the local economy, and enhance the quality of life in the region.

Additionally, we will present projects born from the CBC movement, including the establishment of an Integral Cooperative focused on the sustainable development of Cova da Beira. Currently, this cooperative is dedicated to implementing a Local Food System that connects local producers directly with consumers, promotes short supply chains, supports local agricultural production, and ultimately fosters greater self-sufficiency and community sovereignty.

Baldios da Aldeia do Carvalho, Portugal

The organisation is an association of local residents that co-own a few hundred ha of land in altitude (mostly above 1.000m high – the village lies between 700-800m). There has been minimal management for the last 50 years, as nobody volunteers for the job. Manuela Pires da Fonseca has been elected President of the association for 2026-29. She has been in charge for 2 months only and is still trying to build up a picture of the challenges ahead.

FRANCE

La Section de commune du Couchant, Les Bauges, France

The association of local citizens is located in the commune of Faverges-Seythenex (Haute-Savoie). It owns in common on a permanent and exclusive basis almost 940 hectares of land located in two departments, Savoie and Haute-Savoie, situated within the perimeter of *the Massif des Bauges* Regional Natural Park. This is a medium-altitude mountain landscape ranging from 500 to nearly 2000 metres above sea level which includes French and EU-designated areas of ecological interest (ZNIEFF/Natura 2000). It is also an area with a long history of pastoralism.

The association plays an active role in the organisation of the local lived environment and the governance of public affairs: such as providing services to inhabitants, protecting the environment, promoting agro-pastoralism, forestry and tourism. It has notably concluded agreements with alpine farmers to allow livestock farming. It is also a hunting territory and as such the members of the association have a right to hunt. In addition, local inhabitants have rights to extract timber, although nearly 460 hectares of local forest are governed by the forestry regime and managed in conjunction with the French national forestry organisation. A leisure resort "La Sambuy" (ski resort but also summer leisure resort: sledging, botanical trails, hiking, etc.) also occupies part of the land owned by the *section*. Finally, it has equipment such as fire-fighting tanks, a communal oven, water basins and a spring. It also has three alpine chalets, some of which are rented out for agro-pastoral activities (cheese, livestock) or to welcome hikers.